

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-30 are pending. The Office Action dated August 23, 2004 in this Application has been carefully considered. The above amendments and the following remarks are presented in a sincere attempt to place this Application in condition for allowance. Claims 1, 8, 10, 18, and 20 have been amended in this Response. Claims 4-7, 9, 11-17, 19, and 21-30 have been determined by the Examiner to be in condition for the allowance for which Applicant thanks the Examiner. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and following remarks for those Claims not in condition for allowance.

An interview was held with the Examiner, Mr. David Malzahn, on November 17, 2004 to discuss the rejections under U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and the proposed amendments thereto. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the courtesies extended.

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as assertedly being indefinite. Insofar as they may be applied against the Claims, these rejections are overcome.

Specifically, the Examiner asserts that “for each byte of the operand” is indefinite because it fails to establish what occurs for each byte of the operand. Applicants have amended Claim 1 to read that “*a data input line* [is configured] for each bit of each byte *of the first operand*, [where] *each data input line* compris[es] a first part and a second part.” (Emphasis added.) Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as assertedly being indefinite be withdrawn and that Claim 1 be allowed.

Claims 2 and 3 depend on and further limit Claim 1. Hence, for at least the aforementioned reasons, these Claims would be deemed to be in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of the dependent Claims 2 and 3 also be withdrawn.

Claims 8, 10, 18, and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as assertedly having terms that lack a proper antecedent basis. Insofar as they may be applied against the Claims, these rejections are overcome.

Claims 8 and 18 have been amended to read “*a first part and a second part of the data input lines.*” (Emphasis added.)

Claims 10 and 20 have been amended to read “*a second part.*” (Emphasis added.)

In view of the foregoing, Applicants therefore submit that the rejections of Claims 8, 10, 18, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as assertedly having terms that lack a proper antecedent basis are overcome. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of amended Claim 8, 10, 18, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as assertedly having terms that lack a proper antecedent basis be withdrawn and that Claims 8, 10, 18, and 20 be allowed.

Applicants have now made an earnest attempt to place this Application in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of Claims 1-30.

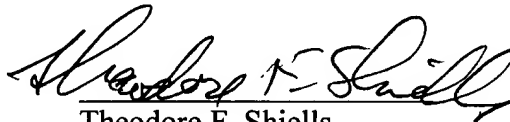
Applicants do not believe that any fees are due; however, in the event that any fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any required fees due (other than issue fees), and to credit any overpayment made, in connection with the filing of this paper to Deposit Account No. 50-0605 of CARR LLP.

Should the Examiner require any further clarification to place this application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

CARR LLP

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